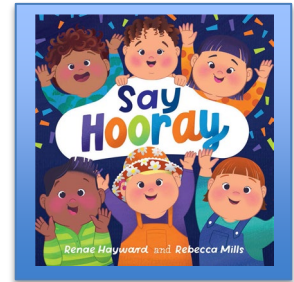


LEARNING TIME

Say Hooray

By Renae Howard and Rebecca Mills

In a baby's first few years of life so many incredible milestones take place. Each day they discover the world around them through the experiences they encounter. This story shines a light on celebrating all the little things that happen each day with babies as they play and love. Take time to notice and to celebrate – hooray! What did your baby do today?



This book shows us how everyday language underpins play and is so important to support babies' language development. It can be as simple as pointing out an aeroplane, saying hello and waving, or singing a song together.

Children learn language by listening to it and using it.

- Early interactions between adults and babies have a long-lasting impact on brain development.
- Slow down and take time to engage in conversation. Allow babies to babble and coo while you listen and then respond to them. This back and forth introduces conversation but also allows babies to watch you speak, they will begin to mimic mouth shapes and before long they will be join the conversation!
- Choose books with large, bright pictures, or high contrast images such as in this picture book and give baby time to explore the images.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

We can help babies become confident learners by:

- Allowing time in your day for play, songs, and stories. Have fun with babies while you read, smile, make eye contact, make silly voices, make animals noises.
- Families are a baby's first teacher. We can be active role models for families by inspiring them and giving them ideas for play activities that they can enjoy at home.
- Providing opportunities for baby to explore, experiment and be hands on with books. Ensure books are accessible for babies to play with, have them on the floor or in easy to access places such as in baskets or on bottom shelves.
- Ensure books are clear and easy for them to see the pictures, bright and bold or black and white books are easier for newborn babies to focus on as their eyes are developing.
- Build strong brain connections by naming and explaining things in their world, not once but many times, and in many ways.

Welcome

Ask caregivers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.

Welcome song - Come Along

*Come along and sing with me, sing with me
Come along and sing with me, it's time for story time!*

Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

*Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me
Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time!*

Song - If You're Happy and You Know It

*If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands*

*If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands*

*If you're happy and you know it,
And you really want to show it...*

*If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands!*



Repeat verses with

- tap your feet,
- reach up high, and
- shout hooray!

Explore songs on Spotify or YouTube

Before Reading

Encourage the group to sit comfortably in a place where they can see the book. If you have multiple copies of the same book this is a simple way to encourage families to join along with you.

Take a moment to connect and share. Your group will have babies and toddlers of all different ages, and all are worthy of a celebration. Make time to share baby milestones and share the joy together. Story time sessions are important programs for babies but the connection and support that can occur for families are priceless.

During Reading

Share each page slowly, modelling to families how they can read the words but also explore the bright, bold images in this story. “Can you spy the stars? Let’s count them...” and “Look, I can see a very happy, brown dog – I think he might be hoping for some of baby Lana’s banana!”

Make it interactive. Use a toy doll or teddy bear to model how families can gently bring actions from the story to life. Holding your baby on your lap rock back and forth like baby Zach, hold up your baby, helping them to stand just like baby Paul and blow them a kiss like baby Chris.

After Reading

If possible, have some suitable play objects for families to interact with and explore. Building blocks, scarves and ribbons, and bubbles are all objects that parents and babies can interact with together. Encourage parents to talk about what they are doing in real time; this helps babies make connections between words spoken and actions.

Read

- Adults can be encouraged to borrow books to read in full to their child at home. Explain to caregivers that children are often able to concentrate for longer periods in a comfortable one on one situation. The adult reader is also to go at a pace that suits the child and gently redirect their attention.
- Books do not have to be read in one sitting. It might be that you read a few pages together and come back to it later. Let parents know that books can ‘grow with the child’. Re-read the same books to the children as they grow older. As they grow toddlers and preschoolers will also enjoy and notice additional details.

Talk

- Spend time together reflecting on the things you observed and enjoyed in the book.
- Conversation tips: *‘What have you done today?’*, *name foods during meal time*, *describe how they might feel or taste*. *The more we talk the bigger your child’s vocabulary will be*. *Look for opportunities in play to count or point out shapes and patterns* “how many blocks? 1,2,3,4!”

Play

- Parents are their baby’s favourite plaything. Toys are fun, but sitting together, facing your baby and interacting with them will be a favourite play pastime.
- Encourage families to visit their local library, many have toy libraries with free to borrow age-appropriate toys.

Sing

- Use the song lyrics on the following page to print out and give to families or enlarge and make a poster they can all see and follow along with.
- This song has gentle actions that are so much fun. Encourage families to sing along and hold up their hands to move along to the beat of the song.
- Varying your voice brings excitement and anticipation to the activity. When we sing rhymes, we tend to slow our speech and pronounce words more clearly – this is so useful for babies as they are learning about language and taking in the sounds and words they hear each day.

Galumph

"Galumph" went the little green frog one day

"Galumph" went the little green frog

"Galumph" went the little green frog one day
And they all went, "Galumph, galumph, galumph"

But...

We all know frogs go, "La-de-da-di-da"
"La-de-da-di-da, la-de-da-di-da"

We all know frogs go, "La-de-da-di-da"
They don't go, "Galumph, galumph, galumph"

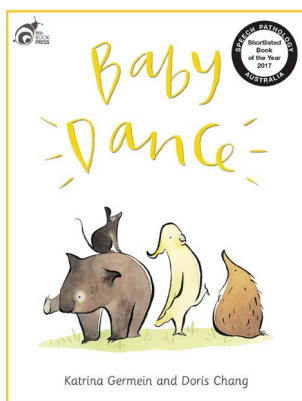
We all know frogs go, "La-de-da-di-da"
"La-de-da-di-da, la-de-da-di-da"

We all know frogs go, "La-de-da-di-da"
They don't go, "Galumph, galumph, galumph"



Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. Raising Literacy Australia suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.



For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Once Upon My Legs** by Mike Dumbleton & Sarah Boese
- **Sing with Me** by Raising Literacy Australia
- **Baby Dance** by Katrina Germein and Doris Chang (**Speech Pathology Australia Shortlisted Book 2017**)
- **Where's My Baby** by Greg Driese

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

www.raisingliteracy.org.au

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) **or** your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)

Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

Visit our website for more great book recommendations and ideas on how to use them.

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